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Department of State TELEGRAM

F760011-1390 (41)

UNCLASSIFIED 075

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00377 190031Z

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 9-13-76

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PER J. Prechawig OFFICE EUR

ACTION JPM 04

FADRC FOI CASE NO. 630345 MacKinnon

INFO CIAE 00, DODE 00, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01,

SP 02, SS 20, USIE 00, ACDA 16, EA 10, IO 13, EUR 15, RSR 01, /108 W

R 190018Z MAR 69
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4453

UNCLAS OTTAWA 377

DEPT. PASS USIA.

SUBJ: REACTION TO ABM DECISION

REF: STATE 40630

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <u>M. J. Jensen</u>	DATE <u>3/15/80</u>
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____	
TS AUTH. _____	REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐	
DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒	
RELEASE DENIED ☐	
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____	

1. CANADIAN EDITORIAL RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT'S ABM DECISION (MAR. 14) GENERALLY NEGATIVE.

2. DURING RECENT WEEKS, PRESS FOLLOWED ABM DEBATE IN US CLOSELY, MANY PAPERS CONCLUDING IN ADVANCE OF THE DECISION THAT ABM'S TOO COSTLY, THAT CPR MISSILE THREAT TENUOUS, AND PROTECTION AFFORDED BY ABM MINIMAL. CONSIDERABLE CONCERN ALSO EXPRESSED ABOUT TOUCHING OFF NEW ARMS RACE POSSIBLY PREJUDICING DISARMAMENT TALKS WITH USSR.

3. REVISED ABM PROPOSAL HAS ONLY marginally REDUCED SUCH CANADIAN CRITICISM. MANY EDITORIALS VIEW ABM DECISION AS COMPROMISE SOLUTION BETTER THAN THE PREVIOUS PROPOSAL, BUT STILL NOT DESIRABLE. THEY SUPPORT MONTREAL GAZETTE (MAR. 17) COMMENT, QUOTE THE MOST ENCOURAGING NOTE IN THE ABM ANNOUNCEMENT IS THAT THE PROGRAM WILL MOVE SLOWLY AND THAT IT COULD BE CHANGED... UNQUOTE. ANOTHER CANADIAN CONCERN EXPRESSED IN TORONTO GLOBE & MAIL (MAR. 18) RELATES TO THE INTERCEPTION AND DESTRUCTION OF ENEMY MISSILES OVER CANADA BY MEANS OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS POSSIBLY CAUSING DAMAGE THROUGH FALLOUT IN CANADA. SAME

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